

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 AF-10 EUR-25 /160 W
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R 011407Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0375

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJ: ISRAEL-AMERICA SOCIETY CALL ON AMBASSADOR

1. ISRAEL-AMERICA SOCIETY DELEGATION ASKED TO SEE ME
NOVEMBER 1, OSTENSIBLY TO EXPRESS THANKS FOR US SUPPORT
DURING WAR (APPOINTMENT ARRANGED LAST WEEK). DELEGATION MEMBERS
TOOK OCCASION, HOWEVER, TO POINT TO DEEP ANXIETY IN ISRAEL OVER
DEGREE OF USG UNDERSTANDING FOR ISRAEL'S POSITION ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES

AND TO STATE THEIR VIEW THAT 1973 WAR PROVED (A) ISRAEL'S SECURITY
NEED FOR TERRITORIES TAKEN IN 1967, (B) ARBS' REAL AIM AS BEING ISRAEL'S

DESTRUCTION, ARABTACTICAL CLAIM OF DESIRE FOR PEACE NOTWITHSTANDING,
(C) USSR'S MALEVOLENT INTENTION OF TAKING OVER EGYPT AND SYRIA FOR
SOVIET GEOPOLITICAL ENDS, AND (D) ISRAEL'S IMPORTANT ROLE FOR US
INTERESTS IN MIDDLE EAST. THEY ASKED ME TO URGE USG NOT TO
PRESS ISRAEL TO OFFER CONCESSIONS FOR PEACE ON GROUNDS THAT THIS
WOULD NOT LEAD TO PEACE; ONLY MAINTENANCE OF ISRAEL'S MILITARY
PREDOMINANCE IN REGION WOULD DO SO.

2. DELEGATION MEMBERS ALSO SAID THAT CONCERN IN ISRAEL OVER
POW ISSUE WAS ACUTE BECAUSE PEOPLE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO
UNDERSTAND THAT POW PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED SIMULTANEOUSLY
WITH CEASEFIRE, AND THIS WAS WHY THERE HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATION
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AT EMBASSY YESTERDAY.

3. IN THANKING THEM FOR COMING, I NOTED THAT NO ONE UNDERSTOOD ANXIETIES OF POWS' RELATIVES BETTER THAN AMERICANS, AND USG WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT PROGRESS ON ISRAELI POW PROBLEM HAD BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR. UNFRIENDLY ASPECTS OF YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATION HERE DID NOT HELP SITUATION, ALTHOUGH I PERSONALLY COULD BE VERY TOLERANT. AS FOR TERRITORIAL ISSUE, WE HAD NEVER ACCEPTED ARAB INTERPRETATION OF RESOLUTION 242, AND WE HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATING OUR FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL IN VERY TANGIBLE WAY. AT SAME TIME US WAS NOT EITHER PRO-ISRAEL OR PRO-ARAB, BUT PRO-PEACE, AND NO ONE IN ISRAEL SHOULD UNDER-ESTIMATE COMPLEXITIES OF SITUATION FOR US OR IMPORTANCE FOR US TO PRESERVE RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD WHILE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT ISRAEL.

4. INCLUDED IN DELEGATION WERE SOME PROMINENT BUSINESS-MEN AND ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL CLOSE TO TRANSPORT MINISTER PERES. I ASSUME, AS IS USUAL HERE, THAT MY POINTS WILL FIND THEIR WAY TO GOI, AT LEAST I HOPE SO, AS I FRAMED MY REMARKS WITH THIS IN MIND.

KEATING

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